(c) and (d) Hyderabad is connected to Mumbai *via* NH-9 and NH-4. The stretch of NH-4 from Mumbai to Pune is already 4-laned and the stretch of NH-9 from Pune to Sholapur is included in NHDP Phase-III for which the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress.

NH projects running behind schedule

983. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many National Highway Projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been complaint that in many sectors the road construction was far below than the standard norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Some of the National Highway Projects are running behind schedule due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities and poor performance of contractors.

(c) and (d) Few complaints have been received about quality of material used in construction and rutting on National Highways.

Increase in road accidents on NHs

984. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the road accidents that occurred during 2003—05, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the accidents increased after the four laning of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the measures ensuring safety of passengers by Government to reduce accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) As reported by the State/UTs, the details regarding number of road accidents occurred on National Highways during the year 2003 and 2004 are given in the Statement (*See* below). Data for 2005 has not been received from State/UT Governments. The number of accidents during 2002 were 1,31,738, whereas the number of accidents in 2003 and 2004 were 1,27,834 and 1,30,265 respectively. The available data does not indicate that number of accidents have increased due to four-laning of National Highways.

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:

(i) Road safety is an integral part of road design at planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.

(ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.

(iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.

(v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country.

(vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.

(ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief

Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation and Maintenance contracts.

(x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

Statement

State-wise road accidents on National Highways

	2003	2004(P)
Andhra Pradesh	12511	12179
Arunachal Pradesh	46	99
Assam	1775	2377
Bihar	3012	967
Chhattisgarh	3000	3726
Goa	1291	1395
Gujarat	8038	7480
Haryana	3378	3219
Himachal Pradesh	1453	1076
Jammu & Kashmir	2317	2401
Jharkhand	1677	1761
Karnataka	10594	11363
Kerala	10543	11102
Madhya Pradesh	8156	8158
Maharashtra	13930	14713
Manipur	329	250
Meghalaya	425	272
Mizoram	80	40
Nagaland	47	43
Orissa	2949	3639

	2003	2004(P)
Punjab	1888	1620
Rajasthan	7515	7735
Sikkim	34	42
Tamil Nadu	20655	19797
Tripura	314	279
Uttaranchal	445	561
Uttar Pradesh	5490	6520
West Bengal	3999	5590
A & N Islands	NIL	0
Chandigarh	45	38
D & N Haveli	NIL	0
Daman & Diu	NIL	0
Delhi	1129	1046
Lakshadweep	NIL	0
Pondicherry	769	777
TOTAL	127834	130265

P = Provisional

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

985. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway Project is running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure timely completion of project by the contractor; and

(d) give details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b)